

## GOV. TAFT'S REPORT

Gives a Very Interesting Insight Into Many Island Problems

Washington, Feb. 8.—Continuing his narrative before the senate committee on the Philippines, Governor Taft today reverted to his testimony of yesterday for the purpose of introducing a cablegram he had received from Acting Governor Wright, urging a reduction in the tariff on Philippine articles imported into the United States from the Philippines. He said this cablegram was in response to an inquiry from him as to the effect of a reduction of 50 per cent. The reply of Acting Governor Wright is as follows:

"The public session of sugar and tobacco interests favors a reduction of 75 per cent at least. A reduction of 50 per cent leaves tariff almost prohibitive. Sugar price now very low; European market very dull on account of overproduction and low price. Beet sugar planters here have lost heavily by Carabaoos, machinery and otherwise. Sugar cultivation in a bad condition. Memorials received from Sugar Growers' Association of Negros and Panay ask for free trade for this reason. Think a reduction of 75 per cent on sugar and tobacco would be a measure of relief and have excellent political effect."

Senator Rawlins questioned Governor Taft concerning the holdings of the friars. The governor said he thought the general opinion as to the wealth and holdings of the friars had been greatly exaggerated. He did not believe, for instance, that they had three-fourths of the property owned in the cities. That, however, the religious orders have ready cash was true as was evidenced by the fact that they make loans. He instanced a case in which the friars had advanced money to promote a corner in hemp which had afterwards failed, because of irregularities on the part of the manager.

Governor Taft said that the Philippine government is desirous of purchasing the Manila property held by the friars and that it also would be desirable to secure their holdings of agricultural lands.

In connection with the loaning of money by the friars Senator Lodge asked about the necessity for a banking law and the witness replied that such a law is badly needed. There are now, he said, two English banks in addition to the Spanish-Filipino bank, the latter being controlled largely by the church and being the only bank of issue. He said there had been some grants of land to the church orders, but that as a rule they had acquired their holdings by purchase. "The charge has been made," he said, "that much of their land has come to them by deathbed conveyances but this charge is not borne out by a tracing of the title. The truth is that the friars have the best titles in the island and even where there have been irregularities the statute of limitations would protect the title."

He said that according to the charges one method of extending the holdings of the orders had been by extending their irrigation systems over adjoining lands.

Senator Proctor asked where the friars had secured money with which to purchase their lands, and this inquiry led Governor Taft to say that the fees for marriages, funerals, christenings, etc., had been so high as to be complained of. These charges for marriages had, he said, led many couples to live together illicitly, but that in most cases the obligations thus taken were observed.

Again referring to the financial interests of the Philippines, Governor Taft said that interest rates are as high as from 20 to 40 per cent and that it is very necessary that there should be authority for granting franchises to financial concerns, which would reduce the interest charges. As to the coinage Governor Taft said that it is desirable that the gold dollar should be exchangeable for gold and the parity assured by the United States. This, he said, is the plan of the commission, and he believes it wise. This plan embraced the coinage of a Philippine peso, and the circulation of this coin, he thought, should be confined to the islands. Referring to the suggestion that United States money should be adopted, Governor Taft said that, if this were done, it would have the effect of increasing the value of the peso to the extent of 50 per cent, and this would unsettle transactions. This plan also would have the effect of raising the price of wages and disturbing business relations.

Taking up another point of administration, Governor Taft advocated the right of appeal in certain cases to the supreme court of the United States, especially such cases as would involve the relationship of church lands to the government. This, he thought necessary, because of the probability of prejudice on the part of local courts. He urged the granting of power to the commission to give franchises for steam and electric railways and light plants, and also made an argument for authority to create a bonded debt of \$4,000,000 for local improvements in Manila. It is, he said, especially desirable that there should be electric lines in that country, because of the difficulty of getting about in a tropical climate.

He thought no franchise should be perpetual. He would also have a wider margin given in the matter of cutting timber.

There is magnificent timber through the islands, he said, and it would be beneficial to the forests to take much of it out. The quantity which can be taken out now by one concern is limited to 100,000 cubic feet. He suggested that there had been some public sensitiveness on this principle because of the interests of the lumber and development company.

In reply to Senator Culbertson, Governor Taft said that he would not advocate grants of land that can be used for speculative purposes, but he felt that it would be necessary to allow persons to acquire large bodies of land in order to secure the development of the country. The conditions there are, he said, entirely different from what they are in the United States, and it would be found that the people would not be so prompt in taking advantage of a homestead law as in the United States.

## SOME AWFUL FIRES

Millions of Property Burn and Numerous Lives are Lost in the Flames

Paterson, N. J.—Large portion of city burned; 1,000 families made homeless; few persons injured; loss, \$10,000,000.

Brooklyn—Fourteen persons, most of them firemen, injured and \$300,000 damage done by burning of Shad Bolt factory.

St. Louis, Mo.—Eleven dead and eight dangerously injured in lodging house fire; loss, \$20,000.

New York—Pier of Lehigh Valley railroad burned; loss, \$250,000.

Elberton, Ga.—Nearly all of business section burned; loss \$100,000.

New York—Two children burned to death in fire which destroyed their father's home.

Cherryvale, Kas.—Racket store burned; loss, \$3,300.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 9.—A great fire swept through Paterson today and in its desolate wake are the embers and ashes valued at \$10,000,000.

It burned its way through the business section of the city and claimed as its own a majority of the fine structures devoted to commercial, civic, educational and religious use, as well as scores of houses. Hundreds were left homeless and thousands without employment. A relief movement for the care of those unsheltered and unprovided for has already been organized.

The fire came at last midnight and was only checked after a desperate fight and that lasted until late this afternoon. Every city and town within reach of Paterson sent firemen and apparatus to the relief of the threatened city and it took the united efforts of them all to win the battle.

A northwest gale gave the conflagration its impetus and carried its burning brands to kindle the blaze afresh at other points. The firemen made stand after stand before the wall of fire, but were repeatedly driven back and when victory finally came to them they were grimed and exhausted.

By Scripps-McRae Press Association.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 10.—The fire was still burning this morning in spots but is now well under control. Gangs of men are tearing down the threatening walls, while militia men patrol the burned district, covering twenty-six blocks. Every incoming train brought hundreds of sight-seers, but today they were held back at a distance. Mayor Henschel, the city officials and prominent citizens met this morning to discuss the situation.

Mayor Henschel, after the meeting said that no outside help would be needed as ten times the amount necessary is offered by local people. Martial law was declared today. The insurance is estimated to be two-thirds of the loss. It is believed the cash in buried bank vaults is unharmed.

There is no suffering among the homeless all of whom are being cared for by those holders who escaped damage. No corpses were found in the ruins.

St. Louis, Feb. 9.—An early morning fire, which destroyed the Empire hotel, a large three-story lodging house at 2700 and 2702 Olive street, occupied by men exclusively, caused the death of eleven persons, ten men and one woman, and dangerously injured eight others. A dozen or more who had narrow escapes from death received less serious injuries or were frost bitten. It is estimated that there were between thirty-five and forty persons in the building last night, and it is believed all have been accounted for. The financial loss is nominal. It is thought that \$20,000 will cover the damage to building and contents, which were totally destroyed.

The Doctor's Picture.

The likeness of W. B. Caldwell, M. D., is on every bottle of the genuine Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Accept no other. Take it for constipation and as a regulator of the stomach and bowels. 50c and \$1.00. Kinne & Son, Moran; W. J. Waters, LaHarpe and C. B. Spencer, Iola.

## SENATORS TO SUCCEED WILL TRY TEXAS OIL

By a Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Representative Jenkins of Wisconsin, a majority member of the judiciary committee, has proposed an amendment to the constitution providing that Senators shall succeed to the presidency instead of members of the cabinet.

The only reference to the matter in the constitution is in this language: "In case of the removal of the President from office or his death, resignation or inability to discharge the powers and duties of his said office, the same shall devolve upon the Vice President."

Mr. Jenkins contends that the most important feature in the matter of presidential succession is the lack of authority on the part of Congress to fill the office of President in case of the death or removal of both President and Vice President, or the death of the successful candidates for these offices just before the determination of the result of the national election, or after the determination and before the inauguration.

"In such a case what is going to be done on the day of the inauguration?" asked Mr. Jenkins. "It certainly can not be successfully contended for a moment that the offices would be filled from the cabinet of the outgoing President."

"There would be no break in the government. We would have no head to the nation, and at present Congress has no power to declare who, under such circumstances, would be President and Vice President. While this may be called a purely hypothetical case, it is certainly not improbable that we might have a repetition of the Hayes-Tilden contest, in which the effect would be important and far-reaching and should be carefully provided for even if it will not probably occur."

The Jenkins amendment provides first, for the manner of electing a President pro tempore of the Senate, and then provides that such President pro tempore of the Senate shall succeed in case of a vacancy first to the vice presidency and then to the presidency, upon the vacancy of that office by both President and Vice President.

## WINTER WHEAT IS O. K. Secretary Coburn Says It Is All Can Be Desired.

Topeka, Feb. 6.—Notwithstanding the months of dry weather in the fall and early winter and the reports from some sections of Kansas that the wheat has been seriously injured by the cold weather in December and the dry weather combined, present reports from all over the wheat belt indicate that the wheat generally is in first-class condition, and there is every prospect at present for a great crop the coming year.

Three weeks ago the wheat growers were badly frightened. There had been little moisture on their fields since October, and the ground was exceedingly dry. During December, too the mercury went down to 10 degrees below zero, and there were frequent reports from people inclined to be pessimistic that much of the wheat was "winter killed."

But cold weather alone does not injure wheat if the roots of the plant are well covered with dirt. The fact that there was little high wind early in the winter had much to do with saving the wheat from serious damage. When the ground is dry a high wind soon blows the dirt away from the wheat roots and leaves them exposed to the air. Then, if a cold snap follows, considerable damage is likely to result.

This year, however, there was no wind and the wheat has been well protected. During the latter part of January the snow began falling, and now there is a good blanket of snow all over the wheat belt. This is making the wheat growers smile. As long as the snow covers the wheat there is no danger of the cold weather killing it, and the snow is now so deep that it will probably stay on the fields until danger of zero weather is past. When it thaws it will soak slowly into the ground and pack the dirt firmly around the wheat roots, so that the March winds will not blow it away.

## FEW CATTLE ARE LOST

The Stock Through the Winter in Good Condition.

Abilene, Kansas, Feb. 7.—The stock has come through the winter thus far better than was anticipated. The farmers generally sold off much of their cattle early in the fall, for fear of having insufficient feed. The remainder were pastured on the rank growth of wheat until the holidays. Many farmers did not need to feed any "roughness" until the first of the year. Thus they were well supplied with feed for the cold spell and have carried the stock through with little loss. The scarcity of stock will be felt in the spring, when the ranches are filled again with cattle to take the place of those sold in the fall. Stockmen look for high prices for stock cattle throughout this part of the state. Eastern Kansas and Missouri buyers are already looking for supplies in this section to restock their farms.

## WILL TRY TEXAS OIL

For War Ships, the Secretary Would Make Exhaustive Tests.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Secretary of the Navy has asked Congress to appropriate \$20,000 for the purpose of making a series of tests to establish the merit of Texas oil as fuel for American war ships. The following explanation accompanies the request of the Secretary: "The bureau of steam engineering of the Navy department desires to carry on an extended series of tests to find out the value of Texas and California oils for naval purposes. It may be remarked that the chemical composition of the Texas yield is different from that of the Ohio and Pennsylvania districts and therefore it may be possible to burn the Texas product, although comparatively little commercial success has been secured in burning the Northern fuel oil. In general, one pound of liquid fuel should evaporate 50 per cent more water than a pound of excellent coal and the small sum required for these tests is certain to bring a good return in giving the navy department information as to whether or not it will be possible to utilize this combustible for warship purposes."

## RUSSIA'S INTRIGUE

Trying to Put Through Two Treaties With China.

Peking, Feb. 6.—The British American and Japanese ministers here have renewed their opposition to the Manchurian arrangements between China and Russia. It is probable that this action will result in the further postponement of the consummation of this treaty.

The powers opposing the Manchurian treaty are now beginning to recognize the force of the representations of the Chinese plenipotentiaries that China is making the best terms possible for herself, and, incidentally, for the equal rights of the other nations in China, and are shifting their protests to Russia as the responsible party.

Paul Lessar, the Russian minister here, is endeavoring to maintain the transparent diplomatic fiction that the Manchurian treaty and the Russo-Chinese bank agreement are not related. He has informed his colleagues that the Russian government has no official knowledge of the negotiations of the Russo-Chinese bank. The Russian agents are playing their parts with the greatest regard for appearances. While M. Lessar is arranging the treaty with China, the manager of the bank, M. Pocattill, one of the most able and trusted of the Russian agents, is in the east negotiating the bank agreement with Wang Wei-Shao.

In the light of the statements of Chinese officials, which were repeated yesterday, namely, that Russia insists upon the simultaneous signing of the Manchurian treaty and the bank agreement, the representations of M. Lessar fail to carry weight. The native newspapers are filled with stories that Russia is trying to gain her end by offers of heavy bribes.

## NEW 30 MILLION TRUST

The Organization of the Corn Products Company Perfected

New York, Feb. 7.—It is proposed that the organization of the Corn Products company, which has been incorporated at Trenton with 80 million dollars capital, will be completed by March 1. All the details have been perfected and the stockholders will soon receive official circulars stating the terms of the deal. The company will own the National Starch company, the Glucose Sugar Refining company, the Pope Glucose company and the Illinois Sugar Refining company. It also will own a large but minority interest in the New York Glucose company.

New York, Feb. 8.—A corporation for the purpose of merging all of the glucose and starch manufacturing interests in one company was incorporated in New Jersey under the name of The Corn Product Company with a capital of eighty million dollars. It is understood that Morgan, Rockefeller, Marshall Field and Norman Ream are the backers.

## RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Martin Norton Permitted to Retire Voluntarily From Command

Topeka, Feb. 7.—The council of administration of the Kansas G. A. R. today accepted the resignation of Martin Norton, department commander. Major B. Remington, senior vice commander, now becomes the commander until the encampments held next month. The acceptance of Norton's resignation ends his troubles, and there will be no court-martial held.

## PARSONS' ASYLUM WORK

Board Will Award Contracts the First of April.

Topeka, Feb. 6.—The State Board of Charities has notified the bidders for the Parsons asylum that it will meet at Parsons April 1 to award contracts. The asylum is to be built on the cottage plan. The first contracts will call for an expenditure of all the money available—\$72,000.

## HEALTH OF THE ARMY

Last Month 77 Deaths and 2,437 Cases of Sickness.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Surgeon General Sternberg has received a report from Lieutenant Colonel B. F. Pope, chief surgeon of the division of the Philippines, in regard to the health of that command during the month ended December 15. It shows a decrease in the percentage of sickness, which Colonel Pope says may be considered especially favorable, in view of the long continuance of the rainy season, and the active military operations in Samar and Batangas. The total number of deaths is seventy-seven, the same number as the previous month. Eleven soldiers died from wounds received in action and sixteen were drowned. There were 2,437 cases of sickness. The strength of the command being 39,040, the percentage to command was 6.21. There was a decrease in the number of cases of typhoid and malarial fever, and an increase in intestinal and gastric diseases. Bubonic plague has reappeared in the city of Manila, and the board of health is conducting an active campaign against rate, with a view of preventing a spread of the plague. So far no such cases have appeared in the army.

## JUDGMENT AGAINST HIM

Kansas Run Out of Country For Abusing McKinley

Anthony, Kas., Feb. 6. On September 15 last a young man named William Grubb, at Freeport, in this county said: "I'd as soon vote for a black dog as McKinley." In view of the fact that McKinley was then lying dead, the men who heard him were greatly aroused and two of them expostulated with him, only to be abused for their pains. The people of that community then prepared a notice, which read:

"The person in this township who made expressions this morning derogatory to our late beloved president is invited to pack his grip and leave this place at once, as we will tolerate not one among us who rejoices in the death of our president by assassination, or anyone who sympathizes with anarchists."

This notice was signed by about fifty men and then served on Grubb, who heeded the warning and left the country. Recently Grubb brought suit for \$20,000 damages against the men who signed this paper. He asked \$10,000 for being run out of the country and \$10,000 for libel. The case has been on trial in the district court here for the past three days. The jury today brought in a verdict for the defendants.

## BACK TO WASHINGTON

Admiral and Mrs. Schley Have Finished Their Tour.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 6.—The visit of Admiral and Mrs. Schley to Knoxville ended tonight, so far as entertainment features are concerned, and the visitors will leave tomorrow morning for Washington. A reception tendered to the admiral by the Cumberland Club tonight was the closing feature. The entire club house was decorated handsomely in the tri-color. The punch bowl was imbedded in the hold a miniature model of the Brooklyn made from the choicest flowers. The admiral spoke briefly, on account of a severe cold, thanking Knoxville for its hospitality. While this event was in progress Mrs. Schley was the guest at a dinner tendered by Mrs. Lawrence D. Tyson.

## NOW IT'S SAMPSON'S SIDE

Another Chapter Added to the Schley-Sampson Controversy

Washington, Feb. 7.—The counsel for Sampson this morning filed with the secretary of the Navy a statement in behalf of Sampson in opposition to Schley's contention that Schley was in command at Santiago.

The consideration of this argument, it is thought, will preclude the possibility of a verdict by the president on Schley's appeal before the president's departure for Charleston. Sampson's brief contends that the question of supreme command at the battle did not enter into the proceedings of the court under the specifications.

## FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

Taft Thinks We Ought to Make Concessions to Filipinos

Washington, Feb. 7, 1902.—Governor Taft told the Senate committee on the Philippines today that he wished to repeat his statement that the commission favored a reduction of the tariff on imports from the Philippines because the commission favored everything that would be an object lesson of friendliness of the United States to the Filipinos. He doubted whether commerce would increase immediately "by leaps and bounds" because the transportation facilities were lacking, but that no doubt in a reasonable time the reduction would be a vast benefit to the Filipino farmers. He would like the reduction to be seventy-five instead of fifty per cent.

## YOUNG GIRL MURDERED

Disappeared a Month Ago and Found Dead Sunday.

San Francisco, Feb. 7.—A mysterious murder is puzzling the police. The body of Nora Fuller, a 16-year-old girl, who disappeared from her home January 11, was found lying naked on a bed in the upstairs back room of an unfurnished house yesterday afternoon. The girl had been dead some time. An autopsy disclosed that death was not due to natural causes.

Nora Fuller left home January 11 and met a man known as John Bennett, in response to an advertisement for a girl to take care of a baby. She met the man at a restaurant and thereafter all knowledge of her was lost.

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—Grace Langford, aged nineteen, and Norma Dobson, aged fourteen, are reported missing. The police have exhausted the last clue to the murder of Nora Fuller, having found that the man Sennebrick, whose card was found in the girl's purse, sailed for China a month ago.

## BIG DETROIT BANK FAILS

Savings Bank Ruined by Loans to Unreliable Local Promoters

Detroit, Feb. 10.—The City Savings Bank closed this morning and the State Bank Commissioner Maltz is in charge. Money advanced to the suburban street railway promoters caused the suspension. Police commissioner, Frank Andrews, chief promoter and Detroit's "Napoleon of finance," had over six hundred thousand dollars of the bank's certified checks and ninety-four thousand in over-drafts. His cousin was the bank's cashier. Andrews has assigned everything.

Andrews' assignment aggregates two millions. No other bank is involved. The school board had half a million in the suspended bank and the city library a quarter of a million.

## WHOLE SCHOOL FLEES

Tennessee University Threatened by Mountaineers for Strange Reason

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 8.—The 600 students and the faculty of the University of the South are alarmed by the threats of mountaineers to wreck the institution. Vice Chancellor D. L. Wiggins and Stewart R. L. Colmore, to whom special warnings were sent, have fled to the woods. The trouble was caused by the establishing of a laundry at the university and the consequent loss by the mountaineers of the work of washing for the students, which was their main support. The first laundry built was burned and the decision to rebuild it was followed by a series of threatening letters.

## TELEGRAPH NEWS NOTES

Manila, Feb. 8.—A Republican news paper controlled by Americans is planned here, there being no American paper since an English syndicate bought The American. It will be printed partly in Tagalog and will be educational, giving sketches of American history.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The President has approved with one exception all the recommendations for brevet rank made by the army commission. The exception is his own case, recommended for Colonel and Brigadier-General for services in Cuba.

Hiawatha, Kans. Feb. 8.—Ewing Herbert has canceled the lease on his Atchison Champion and announces its sale to W. A. Robinson, of Salt Lake City, who will immediately assume charge, rehabilitate and reorganize the paper.

Oswego, Kans. Feb. 8.—The people of this town to correct the report that their fellow townsman, L. S. Crum, recently appointed U. S. marshal, does not stand well with home folks, will next Wednesday night give him a big reception.

Topeka, Kans. Feb. 8.—The Jessie Morrison case was argued in the Supreme Court today, 167 reasons being set forth why a new trial should be granted. The principal ones were the manner in which the jury was impaneled and the barring of certain evidence by the trial judge.

Chapman, Kans. Feb. 8.—Two men claiming to be from Chicago recently visited this section and gave farmers five dollars each for the privilege of hunting on their farms. Receipts for the money were taken and have since turned up in the hands of third parties as notes for \$500. Several thousand dollars worth of such notes have been found.

Topeka, Kans. Feb. 8.—Mrs. Annie Diggs has resigned as editor of the Topeka Advocate. Recently the owner of the paper H. N. Gaines, inserted a whisky editorial contrary to her wish and as he refused to apologize in the paper she resigned.

Paola, Kas. Feb. 8.—The board of county commissioners today decided to investigate the accounts of Thomas T. Kelly, now deputy state treasurer, for the period of his incumbency as clerk of this county. The investigation will begin February 15.